

The Wednesday Word, October 25, 2017: Grounded and Established in the Gospel

Calvary assures us that the wrath which should have consumed us has fallen upon our Substitute (1 Thessalonians 1:10). Faith in Christ alone, therefore, rescues us from the bondage of having to perform to avoid the wrath of God. In Christ alone, faith sees the smile of the Father upon us.

Though faith is not our righteousness it fastens us to the righteousness of Christ and sees, as old Solomon Stoddard saw, that Christ's righteousness makes it safe for us to appear in heaven. Indeed, the only safe way to heaven is to trust in the doing, dying and rising again of Christ. Faith grasps that our acceptance before God is in Christ alone and not in our faith. Faith in faith saves no one. Gospel faith understands this!

Furthermore, faith grasps that our eternal standing in the ages to come depends, not upon anything in us, but upon the unchanging righteousness of Christ alone outside of us. When we are not established in the gospel, we easily make the mistake of looking within ourselves to determine whether or not we have certain feelings. Unfortunately, if we find the correct feelings, we then content ourselves that our faith is strong and that we are thus eternity bound. Conversely, alarm bells ring when we can't find those feelings because we then assume that our destiny is in doubt. When we live like this, we are unsettled and confused. We have not yet understood that anything subjective, whether it is the work of the Spirit in us or our feelings and experiences, can ever qualify as the object of our faith. They are not the Gospel! Acquittal before God comes only through the person and work of the Lord Jesus. He alone is the sinner's plea for, "He that believeth on him is not condemned" (John 3:18).

And that's the Gospel Truth! and Established in the Gospel

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